

CV 10 4218

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JAMES B. FERRARI

- against -

Plaintiff, U.S.D. (S.F.)

U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.N.Y.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

2010

LONG ISLAND OFFICE

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, LONG ISLAND OFFICE  
CHRISTINE MALAFI, individually,  
JOHN DOES # 1-10, individually,

Jury Trial Demanded

Defendants.

X

SEYBERT, J.  
WALL, M.J.

Plaintiff, JAMES B. FERRARI, by his attorneys, CAMPANELLI & ASSOCIATES, P.C., as and for his complaint respectfully alleges as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff, JAMES FERRARI is an individual residing at 120 West 21st Street, New York, NY.
2. Upon information and belief, the defendant COUNTY OF SUFFOLK is a municipal corporation organized and operating under New York State law, with a principle place of business situated at 100 Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, NY.
3. Upon information and belief, at all times described herein defendant CHRISTINE MALAFI (hereinafter "Malafi") was, and remains an employee, agent and representative of the County of Suffolk.
4. Upon information and belief, at all times described herein defendants JOHN DOES #1-10 were, and remain employees, agents and representatives of the County of Suffolk.

5. At all times described herein, in conducting and carrying out the actions described herein below, both the County of Suffolk, John Does 1-10 and Malafi were acting under color of state law.

**Preliminary Facts**

6. This is a civil action seeking equitable relief, punitive damages, costs and attorneys fees, brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§1983 and 1988, to redress deprivation, under color of law, of rights privileges and immunities guaranteed by the Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, brought by the owner of a motor vehicle that was seized and retained by the defendants, which include the County of Suffolk, and several of its agents and representatives.

7. The County of Suffolk (hereinafter "the County") is a Municipal Corporation situated within the State of New York.

8. Under its own Administrative Code and local laws, the County operates through its Supervisor, and a Board of Legislators.

9. At all relevant times described herein, the County of Suffolk maintained a DWI seizure program, within which it: (a) seizes and retains possession of motor vehicles incident to DWI arrests within the County, and (b) thereafter subjects such vehicle to civil forfeiture, as "the instrumentality of a crime."

10. Under such program being carried out by the defendants, upon the arrest of an individual charged with an offense under VTL §1192, the defendants cause the seizure of the vehicle being operated, and immediately deprive the owner of such vehicle from possession and use of same.

11. The alleged statutory basis of the defendants' authority to seize and retain possession of vehicles, adversely to the rights of the vehicles' owners, is Suffolk County Code §270.

12. Under the constraints of both the Suffolk County Code and the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the defendants are statutorily required to afford vehicle owners with due process, before effectuating a continued deprivation of their vehicle.

13. The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution explicitly provides that no person may be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

14. In a measure which amounts to little more than a transparent gesture of affording "due process" to vehicle owners who have not been convicted of any crime, but whose vehicles are nonetheless being retained by the County, the County purports to offer such owners "retention hearings" at which the owners are purportedly afforded an opportunity to challenge the County's seizure and continued retention of their respective vehicle.

15. After the City of New York, and both the Counties of Nassau and Suffolk had each implemented DWI seizure programs, in the matter of Krimstock v. Kelly, the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, entertained a challenge to the Constitutionality of the City's seizure and continued retention of motor vehicles from respective owners whom had not been convicted of any crime.

16. In 2002, on appeal from the Southern District, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit explicitly ruled that to comport with the constraints of the Due Process Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, a municipality which seizes and seeks to retain possession of a motor vehicle under a DWI seizure program must provide the owner of such vehicle with a prompt

“retention hearing” at which the respective owner may challenge both the initial seizure of the vehicle, as well as the continued retention thereof. Krimstock v. Kelly, 306 F.3d 40 (2nd Cir. 2002).

17. In rendering such a ruling, the Second Circuit explicitly set the standard that, to establish entitlement to retain possession of a seized vehicle, the municipality ***must establish*** (a) the validity and probable cause for the underlying arrest and seizure; and (b) the necessity and legitimacy of continued retention.

18. Separate and apart from the 14th Amendment, under Suffolk County’s own Administrative Code provision, at any such retention hearing the County is also ***required*** to determine whether probable cause existed for the defendant’s warrantless arrest, whether the County is likely to succeed on the merits of the forfeiture action, whether retention is necessary to preserve the vehicle from destruction or sale during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding, and whether any other less restrictive measures would better protect the County’s interest during the proceeding, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Issuance of a restraining order prohibiting the sale, transfer, or loss of the vehicle with the imposition(s) of appropriated penalties for violation of said restraining order;
- (b) Taking of a bond; and/or
- (c) Use of an interlock device.

19. In direct defiance of both the 14th Amendment Due Process requirements articulated in Krimstock and the Suffolk County Code, the defendants herein knowingly train, and/or deliberately permit, the hearing officers who “preside” over retention hearings to deliberately and systematically refuse to comport with the requirements of Due Process or the Suffolk County Code.

20. In direct defiance of same, the County’s hearing officers refuse to require that the County establish the necessity of continued retention of the vehicle.

21. Instead, the hearing officers merely require the County to establish the validity of the initial arrest and nothing more.

22. Once the validity of the initial arrest is “established,” the County Attorneys, as permitted by the hearing officers, then proceed to assert that the “burden” of proof has now shifted to the vehicle owner to establish hardship, which the owner must establish to defeat the County’s right to retain the vehicle in direct contravention to its own code and the due process standard articulated in Krimstock.

23. In addition, as conducted by the County’s hearing officers:

(a) at the retention hearing, the County is not required to produce a single witness with personal knowledge of the underlying arrest or any of the facts of the case, but may prevail in the case simply by producing the police records reflecting the underlying arrest, and, by contrast

(b) at the retention hearing, the owner must appear personally to testify, for if they appear *instead* by their attorney, as is explicitly

permitted in civil matters under New York CPLR 321(a), the retention hearing will not be conducted, and the County will be entitled to retain the vehicle, thereby winning by default, despite not having borne its burden as articulated by the Court in Krimstock.

**Suffolk County and Malafi Have a History of Failing to Abide by Their Own Code and the Due Process Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment**

24. As a result of the defendants' deliberate violation of the constraints of both the 14th Amendment, and the Suffolk County Code, in 2004, an action was commenced against both defendant Malafi, and Suffolk County (et al.) in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, under case number CV-04-3651, Sullivan v County of Suffolk, et al.

25. In Sullivan, defendant Malafi was sued individually for violations of the Fourth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments for, just as in the matter herein, skewing the hearings and not meeting the mandatory constitutional standards set forth in Krimstock and the Suffolk County Code.

26. In a situation strikingly similar to the instant matter, the County was only required to show the validity of the arrest and was not required and thus failed to prove that the retention of the vehicle was necessary and that other less obtrusive means would suffice.

27. In Sullivan, the jury found that Malafi and the County violated plaintiff's rights by failing to meet the standards set by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Suffolk County Code.

28. However, the jury only awarded one dollar in damages but only because the County had offered to give the plaintiff his car back prior to the commencement of the lawsuit.

29. Emboldened by the mere one dollar award, Malafi and the County have intentionally and willfully continued their campaign to violate the rights of those whose cars have been seized by requiring owners to appear personally for retention hearings and by improperly shifting the burden of continued retention to the owner to show hardship or some other necessity rather than on the County as required by the County Code and the constraints of the due process clause.

30. As trained by defendant John Does 1-10, the County's hearing officers do not require the County Attorney to produce any evidence, factual witnesses, or anyone who possesses personal knowledge of the case whatsoever tending to show that the retention of the vehicle is necessary to preserve the vehicle absent alternative measures as they are required to do under the Suffolk County Code.

31. Yet the hearing officers permit the County to "prevail" in establishing entitlement to retain possession of seized vehicles, merely by introducing records of the underlying arrest, but without satisfying its entire burden pursuant to the Suffolk County Code, in complete degradation of the owners due process rights.

#### **Seizure of Plaintiff's Property Without Due Process**

32. On or about May 26, 2009, following an arrest for an alleged DWI, the defendant County seized the plaintiff's vehicle, a 2003 Ferrari 360 Spider, VIN: ZFFYU51A530130678.

33. On or about the 28th day of May, 2009, the defendants served the plaintiff with a Notice of Seizure and Hearing scheduling the Retention Hearing for the plaintiff's vehicle for June 9, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

34. The civil forfeiture action and the preceding retention hearing are civil actions, and New York Civil Practice Laws and Rules (CPLR) explicitly provides that a party may defend a civil action “in person *or* by an attorney” CPLR 321(a)(emphasis supplied).

35. Since it is the plaintiff who bears the burden of proof in any civil matter, a defendant is under no obligation to present evidence or witnesses. *See e.g.* SAN-DAR Associates v. Adams, 167 Misc.2d 727 (Appellate Term 1996).

36. Moreover, unless subpoenaed by the plaintiff, a defendant within a civil action is under no obligation to appear personally. He may, instead, appear solely by their attorney, who can dispute the plaintiff’s evidence at any trial or hearing. *Id.*; CPLR 321(a).

37. On or about June 9, 2009, the plaintiff herein appeared by counsel at the retention hearing. (Annexed hereto as Exhibit “A” is a true copy of the transcript of the June 9, 2009 hearing).

38. At the hearing, when plaintiff’s counsel stated that he was appearing on behalf of plaintiff, the judicial hearing officer, Hon. J. Dinoto, stated, “I am not going to conduct a hearing without him here” and refused to conduct the hearing without the presence of the plaintiff, which according to the CPLR was not required.

39. Both the County attorney and plaintiff were ready to proceed but the hearing officer refused to allow the hearing to go forward.

40. The hearing was needlessly adjourned nearly three months until September 1, 2009.

41. On or about September 1, 2009 plaintiff again appeared by counsel at a second retention hearing. (Annexed hereto as Exhibit "B" is a true copy of the September 1, 2009 hearing).

42. As is the policy, practice and procedure of the defendants, at the second retention hearing, the County was not required to meet its entire burden of demonstrating whether probable cause existed for the defendant's warrantless arrest, whether the County is likely to succeed on the merits of the forfeiture action, whether retention is necessary to preserve the vehicle from destruction or sale during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding, and whether any other less restrictive measures would better protect the County's interest during the proceeding, notwithstanding the dictates of the due process clause, the Second Circuit's holding in Krimstock, Suffolk County Code §270-26 and the Eastern District's decision in Sullivan against these very same defendants.

43. In fact, directly contrary to Suffolk County Code §270-26, the County Attorney shifted the burden to the plaintiff and informed the Court that, "Mr. Ferrari needs to testify as to what his hardship is going to be in this particular case. If he is not here to testify, he can't show a hardship , therefore, [plaintiff] does have the burden under the [Suffolk County Code] to show hardship and should be present."

44. The only element that the County Attorney even attempted to show, let alone actually proved, was that there was probable cause for the underlying stop and arrest.

45. The County Attorney presented absolutely no evidence or witnesses whatsoever to demonstrate the County's need for retention of the vehicle as opposed to the other alternative means as they are required to do pursuant to Suffolk County Code §270-26.

46. At this second retention hearing, Mr. Ferrari's counsel repeatedly tried to inform the County Attorney and the Court of the dictates of §270-26 and more specifically that in order to obtain a retention order the County Attorney had the burden of not only proving the probable cause of the underlying arrest, but that the County was *required* to show that retention is necessary to preserve the vehicle from destruction or sale during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding, and whether any other less restrictive measures would better protect the County's interest during the proceeding, such as a restraining order, a bond or the use of an interlock device.

47. Notwithstanding the County Attorney's utter failure to prove that retention of the plaintiff's vehicle was necessary absent other less restrictive measures, the hearing officer ordered the retention of the plaintiff's vehicle after only making a finding that there existed probable cause for the underlying arrest and nothing more.

48. The defendant has deprived the defendant of his property without due process of law by intentionally failing to abide by the requirements of the due process clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment, the holdings in Krimstock and Sullivan, and the Suffolk County Code.

49. As further described above, that deprivation was deliberate, wilful, contumacious and without excuse or justification in light of the holding in the Sullivan case against the same defendants herein.

**Governmental Policies - Monell Liability**

50. At all times relevant hereto, it was the policy of Suffolk County that in any post-deprivation hearing held pursuant to § 270-26(B)(1) of the Suffolk County Code, in order to make a prima facie showing of entitlement to retention of the vehicle prior to and during the pendency of a civil forfeiture action, that it did not require itself to demonstrate that retention of the subject motor vehicle was necessary to prevent its destruction, sale or removal from the jurisdiction of any court of competent jurisdiction.

51. At all times relevant hereto, it was the policy of Suffolk County that in any post-deprivation hearing held pursuant to § 270-26(B)(1) of the Suffolk County Code to require a vehicle owner to be present and testify at the hearing.

52. At all times relevant hereto, it was the policy of Suffolk County that in any post-deprivation hearing held pursuant to § 270-26(B)(1) of the Suffolk County Code to require a vehicle owner to prove hardship or necessity or the County would retain the vehicle, thus shifting the burden of proof.

53. At all times relevant hereto, it was the policy of Malafi to retain possession of any motor vehicle seized under § 270-26, even though she had not met the requirements of § 270-26(B)(1).

54. At all times relevant hereto, it was the policy of the defendants to train their County Attorneys and Judicial Hearing Officers to deliberately fail and refuse to require the County Attorney to prove all of the elements of § 270-26(B)(1), namely to prove that retention of the vehicle is necessary to prevent its removal or destruction absent less restrictive means and allowed for retention of the vehicle after only a mere showing of the validity of the underlying

arrest.

**EACH OF THE DEFENDANTS ARE PERSONS WHO  
ACTED UNDER COLOR OF STATE LAW**

*Defendant Christine Malafi is a "person" who acted under  
color of state law within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.*

55. While intentionally engaging in the improper and unlawful conduct described herein, defendant Malafi was clothed with the authority of local law as County Attorney for Suffolk County.

56. The wrongs committed by defendant Malafi, and the injuries sustained by plaintiff as a result thereof, were rendered possible only because of the veil of local authority lodged in defendant Malafi by virtue of her office as the County Attorney, which was expressly created under local law.

57. The wrongs committed by defendant Malafi constituted a misuse of the power possessed by defendant Malafi by virtue of local law and defendant Malafi's capacity and position as County Attorney.

58. The wrongs committed by defendant Malafi were planned, orchestrated and committed during the regular business hours of defendant Malafi's official office and within the hours during which defendant Malafi is responsible for fulfilling his official duties as County Attorney.

59. In committing the wrongs described herein, defendant Malafi held herself out to be acting in her capacity as County Attorney, and was viewed to be acting in such capacity by the persons to whom defendant Malafi influenced as described herein.

60. Accordingly, in committing the acts described herein, defendant Malafi was a person acting under color of state law within the purview of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

***Defendant John Does # 1-10 are "persons" who acted under color of state law within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.***

61. While intentionally engaging in the improper and unlawful conduct described herein, John Doe defendants # 1-10 were clothed with authority of being officials and/or employees of Suffolk County.

62. The wrongs committed by said defendants, and the injuries sustained by the plaintiffs as a result thereof, were rendered possible only because of the veils of local authority lodged in said defendants by virtue of their respective offices with Suffolk County.

63. The wrongs committed by said defendants constituted a misuse of the power possessed by said defendants by virtue of local law and defendants respective capacities and positions.

64. The wrongs committed by said defendants were planned, orchestrated and committed during the regular business hours of defendants' official offices and within the hours during which said defendants were responsible for fulfilling their official duties as officials.

65. In committing the wrongs described herein, said defendants held themselves out to be acting in their official capacities, and were viewed to be acting in such capacities by the persons whom said defendants influenced as described herein.

66. Accordingly, in committing the acts described herein, defendant John Does # 1-10 were persons acting under color of state law within the purview of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

**THE COUNTY IS A "PERSON" LIABLE TO THE PLAINTIFF  
UNDER 42 U.S.C. 1983 BECAUSE THE DEFENDANTS'  
ACTIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN PURSUANT TO  
POLICY AND/OR CUSTOM**

67. At all relevant times mentioned herein, Defendants Malafi and John Does #1-10 were all officials who held titles and positions under the defendants County Code, who were authorized to create the policies under which DWI seizure and retention hearings were to be governed.

68. These defendants were clothed with the authority to make official government policy, and laws, on behalf of Suffolk County.

69. As such, their wrongful actions in relation to plaintiff's application represent the County's official governmental policy.

70. Because the actions of these defendants, as described herein above, regarding plaintiff's applications constituted the County's official policy, the County is also a "person" liable for their wrongful actions within the purview of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

**CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**COUNT ONE**

**DUE PROCESS CLAIMS UNDER THE  
FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

(Procedural Due Process - 42 U.S.C. §1983)

71. The plaintiff repeats and reiterates the allegations set forth within paragraphs "1" through "70" herein above, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth at length herein.

72. At all times described herein, the plaintiff possessed the clearly established property rights, under New York State Law, to purchase, own and enjoy his motor vehicle without unlawful deprivation of his use or enjoyment, without unlawful and arbitrary interference and deprivation from the defendants.

73. As described herein above, the defendants herein deliberately deprived the plaintiff his property rights without due process of law by creating a policy, practice and procedure whereby the defendants wilfully, intentionally and deliberately ignore their burden of proof at retention hearings by not requiring the County to demonstrate that retention is necessary to preserve the vehicle from destruction or sale during the pendency of the forfeiture proceeding, and whether any other less restrictive measures would better protect the County's interest during the proceeding, notwithstanding the dictates of the due process clause, the Second Circuit's holding in Krimstock, Suffolk County Code §270-26 and the Eastern District's decision in Sullivan against these very same defendants.

74. In direct defiance of both the 14th Amendment Due Process requirements articulated in Krimstock and the Suffolk County Code, the defendants herein knowingly train, and/or deliberately permit, the hearing officers who “preside” over retention hearings to deliberately and systematically refuse to comport with the requirements of Due Process or the Suffolk County Code.

75. In direct defiance of same, the County’s hearing officers refuse to require that the County establish the necessity of continued retention of the vehicle.

76. Instead, the hearing officers merely require the County to establish the validity of the initial arrest and nothing more.

77. Once the validity of the initial arrest is “established,” the County Attorneys, as permitted by the hearing officers, then proceed to assert that the “burden” of proof has now shifted to the vehicle owner to establish hardship, which the owner must establish to defeat the County’s right to retain the vehicle in direct contravention to its own code and the due process standard articulated in Krimstock.

78. In addition, as conducted by the County’s hearing officers:

- (a) at the retention hearing, the County is not required to produce a single witness with personal knowledge of the underlying arrest or any of the facts of the case, but may prevail in the case simply by producing the police records reflecting the underlying arrest, and, by contrast
- (b) at the retention hearing, the owner must appear personally to testify, for if they appear *instead* by their attorney, as is explicitly permitted in civil

matters under New York CPLR 321(a), the retention hearing will not be conducted, and the County will be entitled to retain the vehicle, thereby winning by default, despite not having borne its burden as articulated by the Court in Krimstock.

79. In effectuating such deprivations, while simultaneously engaging in calculated, deliberate and successful efforts to ensure that the plaintiff was deprived of due process of law, the defendants violated the plaintiff's right to procedural due process as guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution; as such, each of the defendants are individually liable to the plaintiff pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

80. As set forth more fully above, the defendants' actions unlawfully deprived the plaintiff of its property rights in violation of procedural due process as guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

81. Having substantially interfered with and/or deprived the plaintiff of its property interests without having afforded the plaintiff any opportunity at a meaningful time and meaningful manner within which to review the defendants' concerted behavior, the defendants violated the plaintiff's right to procedural due process as guaranteed to the plaintiff under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

82. As a result of the aforesaid defendants' violation of plaintiff's procedural due process rights, the plaintiff has been damaged by being unable to use and enjoy his property and by being unlawfully deprived of his vehicle.

83. All of the injuries described herein above were actually and proximately caused by the concerted acts of the defendants described herein.

84. The aforesaid defendants' violation of plaintiff's due process rights were made under color of state law, which constitutes "state action" under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

85. Having knowingly and deliberately violated the plaintiffs Constitutionally protected rights, and concomitantly having caused the plaintiff to sustain monetary damages as a result thereof each of the defendants are personally liable to the plaintiff, and the plaintiff is entitled to secure relief against the defendants, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983.

86. The actions of the defendants were performed with an affirmative intent to injure the plaintiff, and were calculated efforts which the defendants undertook with actual knowledge that their actions were in actual and deliberate violation of the plaintiff's rights.

87. In view of the forgoing, a substantial award of punitive damages against the individually named defendants is warranted.

## COUNT TWO

### **DUE PROCESS CLAIMS UNDER THE FIFTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

(Substantive Due Process - 42 U.S.C. §1983)

88. The plaintiff repeats and reiterates the allegations set forth within paragraphs "1" through "87" herein above, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth at length herein.

89. At all times described herein, the plaintiff was vested of constitutionally protected property rights, as set forth herein above.

90. As detailed herein above, the defendants arbitrarily, capriciously and deliberately deprived the plaintiff of such property rights, and engaged in a pattern of insidious, spiteful and malicious conduct which was oppressive in an constitutional sense, in violation of the plaintiff's

rights to substantive due process, as guaranteed to the plaintiff under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

91. As a result of the aforesaid defendants' violation of plaintiff's substantive due process rights, the plaintiff has been damaged by being unable to use and enjoy his property and by being unlawfully deprived of his vehicle.

92. In light of the holding in Sullivan against these very same defendants, by continuing a policy, practice and procedure of deliberately refusing to prove their entire burden under the dictates of the due process clause, the holdings in Krimstock and Sullivan, and by defying their own Suffolk County Code, before unlawfully ordering the retention of vehicles, the defendants' actions should serve to shock the judicial conscience.

93. All of the injuries described herein above were actually and proximately caused by the concerted acts of the defendants described herein.

94. The aforesaid defendants' violation of plaintiff's due process rights were made under color of state law, which constitutes "state action" under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

95. Having deliberately violated the plaintiff's Constitutionally protected rights, and concomitantly having caused the plaintiff to sustain monetary damages as a result thereof each of the defendants are personally liable to the plaintiff, and the plaintiff is entitled to secure relief against the defendants, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983.

96. The actions of the defendants were performed with actual spite, malice, and an affirmative intent to injure the plaintiff, and were calculated efforts which the defendants undertook with actual knowledge that their actions were in actual and deliberate violation of the plaintiffs U.S. Constitutional rights.

97. In view of the forgoing, a substantial award of punitive damages against each of the individually named defendants is warranted.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, the plaintiff requests that the Court render judgment:

**COUNT ONE**

**Procedural Due Process Claim**

- (a) Awarding the plaintiff compensatory damages against all defendants, jointly and severally, in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) Dollars or in such an amount as the plaintiff establishes at the time of trial; and
- (b) For punitive damages against each of the individually named defendants, in an amount equaling Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) Dollars, or in such other amount as the finder of fact, or the Court deems appropriate and in accord with applicable law, and
- (c) For reasonable attorneys fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988(b); and
- (d) For any and all expert fees incurred by the plaintiff, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988(c); and
- (e) For such other and further relief as this court may deem just and proper.

**COUNT TWO**

**Substantive Due Process Claim**

- (a) Awarding the plaintiff compensatory damages against all defendants, jointly and severally, in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) Dollars or in such an amount as the plaintiff establishes at the time of trial; and

(b) For punitive damages against each of the individually named defendants, in an amount equaling Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) Dollars, or in such other amount as the finder of fact, or the Court deems appropriate and in accord with applicable law, and

(c) For reasonable attorneys fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988(b); and

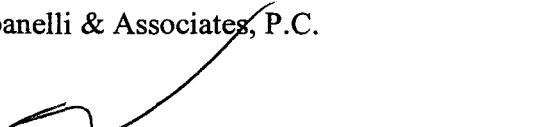
(d) For any and all expert fees incurred by the plaintiff, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988(c); and

(e) For such other and further relief as this court may deem just and proper.

Dated: Garden City, New York  
September 15, 2010

Yours etc.,

Campanelli & Associates, P.C.

By: 

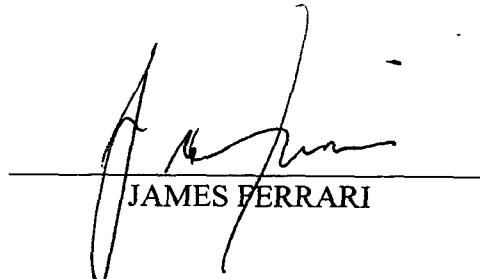
Andrew J. Campanelli (AC4014)  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
623 Stewart Avenue, Suite 203  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 746-1600

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF NEW YORK      )  
                                )  
                                ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF NASSAU      )

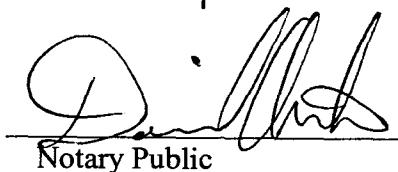
JAMES FERRARI, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That I am the Plaintiff in the within action and I have read the foregoing Complaint and know the contents thereof; the same are true to my own knowledge, except as to those matters said to be upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.



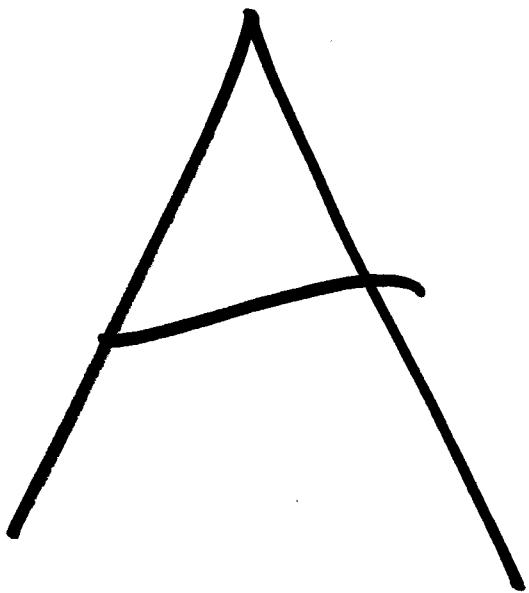
JAMES FERRARI

Sworn to before me on this  
15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010



Notary Public

DAVID A. ANTWORK  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 02AN6154329  
Qualified in Suffolk County  
Commission Expires October 23, 2010



1

ORIGINAL

1 THE STATE OF NEW YORK

2 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

3 -----X

4 In the Matter of the Application of,

5 CHRISTINE MALAFI, SUFFOLK COUNTY ATTORNEY,

6 as Claiming Authority,

7 Petitioner,

8 -against-

9 JAMES B. FERRARI,

10 Respondent.

11 -----X

12 District Court

13 Central Islip, New York

14

15 June 9, 2009

16 10:25 a.m.

17

18

19

20

21 B E F O R E: Hon. J. Dinoto

22

23

24

25

1 A P P E A R A N C E S:

2

3 CHRISTINE MALAFI, SUFFOLK COUNTY ATTORNEY

4 Claiming Authority

5 H. Lee Dennison Building

6 100 Veterans Memorial Highway

7 Hauppauge, New York

8

9 BY: KELLY GREEN, ESQ.

10 Assistant County Attorney

11

12 ANDREW J. CAMPANELLI, ESQ.

13 129 Front Street

14 Mineola, New York

15

16 BY: ANDREW J. CAMPANELLI ESQ.

17 Attorney for the Respondent

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19

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2           THE COURT: Counsel, which matter  
3        do you have?

4           MR. CAMPANELLI: I have Ferrari,  
5        your Honor.

6           THE COURT: Are we ready on the  
7        Ferrari matter?

8           MS. GREEN: Yes, we are, your  
9        Honor.

10          THE COURT: Where is he?

11          MR. CAMPANELLI: He will not be  
12        intending the hearing, Your Honor.

13          THE COURT: Oh, yes, he will. I am  
14        not going to conduct a hearing without  
15        him here.

16          MR. CAMPANELLI: I am here as his  
17        Counsel. He has consented to my  
18        appearing on his behalf. I don't think  
19        he is required to testify at his own  
20        hearing, your Honor.

21          THE COURT: As far as I am  
22        concerned, he is. Credibility is a big  
23        issue in any trial, and there may be a  
24        determination with respect to the issues  
25        that have to be addressed by Counsel

1           asking questions of the Witness -- a lot  
2           different then having him subject to  
3           cross-examination by the County  
4           Attorney. It is a lot different than  
5           having hearsay testimony from you.

6           MR. CAMPANELLI: I don't intend to  
7           offer any testimony, Your Honor. If I  
8           may place my appearance on the record?

9           THE COURT: Absolutely.

10          MR. CAMPANELLI: My name is Andrew  
11          J. Campanelli, 129 Front Street,  
12          Mineola, New York.

13          Good Morning, your Honor.

14          THE COURT: Good morning.

15          MR. CAMPANELLI: As I understand  
16          it, your Honor, this is scheduled for a  
17          retention hearing under the Suffolk  
18          County Code Chapter 270. At this  
19          hearing, under the Code and under the  
20          Federal Law of Krimstock verses Kelly,  
21          the County has the burden of  
22          establishing a number of things.

23          The first of which is the validity  
24          of the initial seizure of the vehicle  
25          which I understand they're prepared to

1 do here today. However, under both the  
2 County Code and the Federal Law, they  
3 will also be required to establish, here  
4 today, with the absence of the County  
5 continued retention of the motor  
6 vehicle, the vehicle will be removed  
7 from the jurisdiction or destroyed.  
8 That is both Statutory Law and Case Law.

9 My client and I have discussed the  
10 matter. The vehicle is not about to be  
11 removed or destroyed, and as much I  
12 don't think they can establish those  
13 elements, as required by both State and  
14 Federal law, my client's testimony is  
15 not required. He is not required to  
16 establish anything.

17 With all do respect to the Court,  
18 the County has the burden. Having  
19 discussed with my client, he chose to  
20 send me on his behalf to handle this  
21 hearing. I have handled about 3,000 of  
22 them, and I am prepared to proceed here  
23 today. I submit that the County will  
24 not be able to establish its burden.

25 THE COURT: Madam County Attorney?

1 MS. GREEN: Your Honor, I believe  
2 that the County will be able to  
3 establish its burden.

4 THE COURT: Counsel, come up here.

5 (WHEREUPON, there a discussion was  
6 held off the record after which the  
7 following transpired:)

8 THE COURT: This is matter of James  
9 B. Ferrari.

10 I made a statement -- we just  
11 finished a conference at the bench. I  
12 made a statement that I won't conduct  
13 the hearing without Mr. Ferrari being  
14 here. That is based upon the statute  
15 and the issues that the statute raises  
16 and considers.

17 Let me hear from you, Counsel.

18 MR. CAMPANELLI: Your Honor, Good  
19 morning.

20 Your Honor, with all do respect to  
21 the Court, I have in my possession a  
22 Notice of Seizure and Hearing which was  
23 served --

24 THE COURT: Counsel, this is a  
25 motion by you to proceed without your

1 client, correct?

2 MR. CAMPANELLI: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: That's what we're  
4 doing?

5 MR. CAMPANELLI: Yes.

6 THE COURT: Go ahead.

7 MR. CAMPANELLI: Your Honor, I have  
8 in my possession, and I think that the  
9 Prosecutor will stipulate, that I have a  
10 Notice of Seizure and Hearing which was  
11 served upon Mr. Ferrari advising him of  
12 his rights to appear here today for a  
13 seizure -- a retention hearing under the  
14 Suffolk County Code, Chapter 270, in  
15 connection with the County seizure of  
16 this 2003 Ferrari. Having discussed the  
17 matter with Mr. Ferrari, I have been  
18 retained by Mr. Ferrari as his attorney.  
19 I am here today for the hearing and  
20 prepared to proceed at the direction of  
21 my client. I, respectfully submit to  
22 the Court, that the purpose of this  
23 hearing is to enable or to afford the  
24 County opportunity to establish several  
25 elements and thereby establish

1       entitlement to the retention and more  
2       specifically, the continued retention of  
3       the Ferrari.

4           I, respectfully submit to the  
5       Court, that under the Suffolk County  
6       Code, Chapter 270, it clearly states  
7       that the County has the burden of  
8       establishing several things in order to  
9       empower this Court to allow the County  
10      to maintain continued retention of this  
11     motor vehicle and those things are: A,  
12     the validity of the initial seizure of  
13     the motor vehicle. B, more importantly,  
14     that in the absence of the continued  
15     retention of this particular motor  
16     vehicle, this vehicle is about to be  
17     either removed from the jurisdiction or  
18     destroyed. As I stated to the Court  
19     earlier, Mr. Ferrari has no burden of  
20     establishing anything with regard to the  
21     underlying elements. Moreover, under  
22     the Federal Court holding of Krimstock  
23     verses Kelly, this Court may not, as  
24     being barred by the United States  
25     Constitution, permit the County to

1        maintain continued retention of the  
2        motor vehicle in the absence of  
3        establishing: A, the probable validity  
4        of the initial seizure. The validity of  
5        the continued retention and that  
6        something short of continued retention,  
7        such as an order regarding the removal  
8        of the car under the jurisdiction would  
9        not suffice.

10            Mr. Ferrari, I respectfully submit,  
11          your Honor, has absolutely no burden of  
12          establishing anything with regard to  
13          those elements and the County has the  
14          entire burden. Moreover, as the Court  
15          is acutely aware, there are criminal  
16          charges pending against Mr. Ferrari in  
17          connection with the underlying DWI  
18          arrest. For that reason, he does not  
19          wish to testify because, of course,  
20          anything he would testify to could be  
21          continually used against him, nor can  
22          this Court compel him to testify given  
23          the fact that the criminal case is  
24          pending. Under such circumstances, I am  
25          here on the date that was noticed by the

1           County --

2           THE COURT: Counsel, let me just  
3           interrupt one second. You concede that  
4           if Mr. Ferrari were here and he was  
5           called to the stand and he was asked  
6           questions, that he could take the fifth?

7           MR. CAMPANELLI: Yes, he could,  
8           your Honor.

9           THE COURT: Go ahead and continue.

10          MR. CAMPANELLI: So, in light of  
11          the fact that he is under no obligation  
12          to establish anything in connection with  
13          the hearing, the entire burden under  
14          both State Law and, specifically,  
15          Suffolk County Chapter 270 and the  
16          Federal Law of Krimstock, I am prepared,  
17          ready, willing, and able to proceed with  
18          my client's full consent and I would  
19          request permission to do so, your Honor.

20          THE COURT: Madam County Attorney?

21          MS. GREEN: The County requests  
22          that all motions be made in writing on  
23          paper. My understanding of the  
24          Krimstock is entirely different than  
25          Counsel's.

1                   THE COURT: The question of whether  
2                   the motion is going to be orally  
3                   entertained or whether the Court will  
4                   direct that the motion be made on proper  
5                   papers has already been determined by  
6                   me. I have allowed your oral arguments,  
7                   and I want a response to you in  
8                   opposition to the request of Counsel.

9                   MS. GREEN: My response?

10                  THE COURT: I have already allowed  
11                  and heard his oral arguments.

12                  MS. GREEN: My response is to allow  
13                  me sometime to research his points.  
14                  Your Honor, I need time.

15                  MR. CAMPANELLI: May I respond to  
16                  that, your Honor?

17                  THE COURT: Go ahead.

18                  MR. CAMPANELLI: The date for this  
19                  hearing was requested by Counsel and set  
20                  by the Court. There have been no  
21                  request for an adjournment prior to  
22                  today. In fact, Counsel for the  
23                  prosecution has advised to they will  
24                  proceed -- to proceed with this hearing.

25                  We're ready to go. I don't know why a

1 motion is even necessary. This is the  
2 date that was noted for the hearing as  
3 required by the constitutional  
4 constraints which protects my clients  
5 interests. He is here for the hearing.  
6 We're ready. I don't know why a motion  
7 to proceed is necessary when this is the  
8 date we have been given and neither  
9 party has asked for an adjournment.

10 THE COURT: I understand that.

11 Do you oppose the motion?

12 MS. GREEN: Yes, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Motion denied.

14 MR. CAMPANELLI: Your Honor, I  
15 would like a written decision.

16 THE COURT: Motion denied.

17 MR. CAMPANELLI: Thank you, your  
18 Honor.

19 THE COURT: Now, what do we do  
20 about an adjourned date? We still have  
21 this matter on our calendar.

22 MR. CAMPANELLI: I understand, your  
23 Honor. With all do respect to the  
24 Court, I would respectfully request the  
25 reporter's information. I intend to

1 file an order to show cause and  
2 immediate appeal. I have no choice,  
3 your Honor. My client does not intend  
4 to testify. If the Court is disinclined  
5 to proceed in his absence, I have to  
6 seek permission from Federal Court.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. CAMPANELLI: Thank you, Judge.

9 May I approach the bench to get the  
10 Reporter's information, Judge?

11 THE COURT: Yes.

12 (WHEREUPON, this hearing was  
13 concluded at 10:40 a.m.)

14 \* \* \*

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3 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

4 STATE OF NEW YORK )

5 SS:

6 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK )

7 I, MELISSA POWELL, a Shorthand Reporter and  
8 Notary Public of the State of New York, do hereby  
9 certify:

10 That the within transcript prepared by me is a true  
11 and accurate record of this hearing, to the best of my  
12 ability.

13 I further certify that I am not related to any of the  
14 parties to this action by blood or by marriage and that  
15 I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand \_\_\_\_\_  
17 day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

18

19

20

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25



MELISSA POWELL

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:25 [1] 1:16 10:40 [1] 13:13 100 [1] 2:6 129 [2] 2:13 4:11</p> <hr/> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>2003 [1] 7:16 2009 [1] 1:15 270 [4] 4:18 7:14 8:6 10:15</p> <hr/> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>3,000 [1] 5:21</p> <hr/> <p><b>9</b></p> <p>9 [1] 1:15</p> <hr/> <p><b>A</b></p> <p>a.m [2] 1:16 13:13 ability [1] 14:12 able [3] 5:24 6:2 10:17 absence [4] 5:4 8:14 9:2 13:5 absolutely [2] 4:9 11:11 accurate [1] 14:11 action [1] 14:14 acutely [1] 9:15 addressed [1] 3:25 adjourned [1] 12:20 adjournment [2] 11:21 12:9 advised [1] 11:23 advising [1] 7:11 afford [1] 7:23 ahead [3] 7:6 10:9 11:17 allow [2] 8:9 11:12 allowed [2] 11:6,10 already [2] 11:5,10 andrew [3] 2:12,16 4:10 appeal [1] 13:2 appear [1] 7:12 appearance [1] 4:8 appearing [1] 3:18 application [1] 1:4 approach [1] 13:9 arguments [2] 11:6,11 arrest [1] 9:18 assistant [1] 2:10 attorney [8] 1:5 2:3,10,17 4:4 5:25 7:18 10:20 authority [2] 1:6 2:4 aware [1] 9:15</p> <hr/> <p><b>B</b></p> <p>barred [1] 8:24 based [1] 6:14 behalf [2] 3:18 5:20 believe [1] 6:1 bench [2] 6:11 13:9 best [1] 14:11 big [1] 3:22 blood [1] 14:14 both [4] 5:1,8,13 10:14 building [1] 2:5 burden [9] 4:21 5:18,24 6:3 8:</p>	<p>7,19 9:11,14 10:13</p> <hr/> <p><b>C</b></p> <p>calendar [1] 12:21 called [1] 10:5 campanelli [2] 2:12,16 3:4,11, 16 4:6,10,11,15 6:18 7:2,5,7 10:7,10 11:15,18 12:14,17,22 13:8 car [1] 9:8 case [2] 5:8 9:23 cause [1] 13:1 central [1] 1:13 certify [2] 14:9,13 chapter [4] 4:18 7:14 8:6 10: 15 charges [1] 9:16 choice [1] 13:2 chose [1] 5:19 christine [2] 1:5 2:3 circumstances [1] 9:24 claiming [2] 1:6 2:4 clearly [1] 8:6 client [5] 5:9,19 7:1,21 13:3 client's [2] 5:14 10:18 clients [1] 12:4 code [5] 4:18,19 5:2 7:14 8:6 come [1] 6:4 compel [1] 9:22 concede [1] 10:3 concerned [1] 3:22 concluded [1] 13:13 conduct [2] 3:14 6:12 conference [1] 6:11 connection [3] 7:15 9:17 10: 12 consent [1] 10:18 consented [1] 3:17 considers [1] 6:16 constitution [1] 8:25 constitutional [1] 12:3 constraints [1] 12:4 continually [1] 9:21 continue [1] 10:9 continued [7] 5:5 8:2,10,14 9: 1,5,6 correct [1] 7:1 counsel [10] 3:2,17,25 6:4,17, 24 10:2 11:8,19,22 counsel's [1] 10:25 county [26] 1:2,5 2:3,10 4:3,18, 21 5:2,4,18,23,25 6:2 7:14,15, 24 8:5,7,9,25 9:13 10:1,15,20, 21 14:6 course [1] 9:19 court [41] 1:12 3:2,6,10,13,21 4: 9,14 5:17,25 6:4,8,21,24 7:3,6, 22 8:5,9,18,22,23 9:14,22 10:2, 9,20 11:1,3,10,17,20 12:10,13, 16,19,24 13:4,6,7,11 credibility [1] 3:22 criminal [2] 9:15,23 cross-examination [1] 4:3</p>	<p><b>D</b></p> <p>date [5] 9:25 11:18 12:2,8,20 day [1] 14:17 decision [1] 12:15 denied [2] 12:13,16 dennison [1] 2:5 destroyed [3] 5:7,11 8:18 determination [1] 3:24 determined [1] 11:5 different [3] 4:2,4 10:24 dinoto [1] 1:21 direct [1] 11:4 direction [1] 7:20 discussed [3] 5:9,19 7:16 discussion [1] 6:5 disinclined [1] 13:4 district [1] 1:12 doing [1] 7:4 dwi [1] 9:17</p> <hr/> <p><b>E</b></p> <p>earlier [1] 8:19 either [1] 8:17 elements [4] 5:13 7:25 8:21 9: 13 empower [1] 8:9 enable [1] 7:23 entertained [1] 11:3 entire [2] 9:14 10:13 entirely [1] 10:24 entitlement [1] 8:1 esq [3] 2:9,12,16 establish [8] 5:3,12,16,24 6:3 7:24,25 10:12 establishing [5] 4:22 8:8,20 9: 3,12 even [1] 12:1</p> <hr/> <p><b>F</b></p> <p>fact [3] 9:23 10:11 11:22 far [1] 3:21 federal [6] 4:20 5:2,14 8:22 10: 16 13:6 ferrari [14] 1:9 3:4,7 6:9,13 7: 11,16,17,18 8:3,19 9:10,16 10: 4 fifth [1] 10:6 file [1] 13:1 finished [1] 6:11 first [1] 4:23 following [1] 6:7 front [2] 2:13 4:11 full [1] 10:18 further [1] 14:13</p> <hr/> <p><b>G</b></p> <p>given [2] 9:22 12:8 green [7] 2:9 3:8 6:1 10:21 11: 9,12 12:12</p> <hr/> <p><b>H</b></p> <p>hand [1] 14:16 handle [1] 5:20</p>
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## Errata Sheet

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the entire transcript of the hearing held on \_\_\_\_\_ [date]. I request that the following changes be entered into the record for the reasons indicated. The errata sheet below should be attached to the original transcript and the court copy of the transcript .

Reason Code:    1 Misspelling  
                  2 Wrong word  
                  3 Wrong speaker  
                  4 Other (explain)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

FIVE STAR REPORTING, INC.  
3132 Union Boulevard  
East Islip, New York 11730  
(631) 224-5054